

**NORTHROP GRUMMAN**

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November 19, 2010

***Via Electronic Submission***

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: Notice of Oral *Ex Parte* Communication**  
**WT Docket Nos. 06-150**  
**PS Docket No. 06-229**  
**DA 10-458**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This letter is to notify you that on November 16, 2010, Northrop Grumman Information Technology, Inc. ("Northrop Grumman") representatives Mark S. Adams, Director, Networks and Communications, Office of the CTO, Keith R Ward, Director of Enterprise Security and Identity Management, Commercial State and Local Programs participated in a meeting with representatives from the FCC Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, and representatives involved in supporting the FCC Emergency Response Interoperability Center (ERIC) activities. Northrop Grumman was responding to direct interests shown by some of the participants in our recently announced "Autumn Blend" interoperability demonstration with DHS and State & Local stakeholders.

In the discussion, Northrop Grumman highlighted the following points:

- A nationwide clearinghouse for 700 MHz interoperability should be established to define and implement proper interoperability between regional networks from the beginning, and to provide a platform allowing users to roam throughout the various systems and regions and access "home base" information in a secure and regulated fashion. Such a clearinghouse also could provide common services such as location-based services and network security (including cyber security monitoring). The Commission and the Public Safety Broadband Licensee (PSBL) should seek funding to

allow for immediate organization and deployment of this common infrastructure, allowing for the possibility of interoperation between the various regional networks. In addition, the various government stakeholders should seek mechanisms for oversight and creation of the clearinghouse.

- Cyber Security is a very important aspect of the eventual public safety network architecture. With recent focus by the international community related to issues of network and device security, it is important for those looking at standards and interoperability to clearly understand the impact of security on the eventual operation of the network. Northrop Grumman as one of the key providers of network security solutions to the Federal Government has carefully considered the importance of cyber security solutions in supporting the mission critical nature of the PS network. There is a need for network standards and implementation that includes not only LTE security standards, but network monitoring, incident management, end user device protection, access policy management, and a careful consideration of system interfaces (especially to the internet).
- The demonstration, dubbed "Autumn Blend," showed the use of standardized personal identity credentials operating across multiple domains, such as a government's or company's credential authentication infrastructure, for access management decisions, situational awareness, cyber-secure capabilities and post-event reconstruction. Participants included federal, state, local, and private sector emergency response and recovery officials who are assigned to the front lines for rescue or recovery missions. One of the scenarios of the Autumn Blend demonstration simulated a collaborative incident at Northrop Grumman's Shipbuilding facility in Newport News, Va. As first responders from the city, Commonwealth and federal government convened on the site, their individual personal identity credentials were presented and read electronically at various authentication points for physical and logical access to the demonstration. These credentials included the U.S. Department of Defense Common Access Card, First Responder Authentication Credential, Personal Identity Verification and Personal Identity Verification-Interoperable credentials. Northrop Grumman discussed with the FCC personnel the applicability of this type Federated credentialing system for the 700 MHz Public Safety Network.

Sincerely,



Attachment

cc:

Jennifer A. Manner, Deputy Bureau Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau,  
Walter Johnson, Ericka Olsen, Gene Fullano, Pat Amodio, Jason Kim, Michael Ha, Randy  
Bachman, Kurian Jacob, Yoon Chang, Behzad Ghaffari